



Jimmy Carter Library & Museum **News Release**

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African American Presidents Exhibition at the Carter Presidential Library

Exhibit on the Founding Fathers of Liberia Opens Saturday, February 25th

Atlanta, GA. –“The African American Presidents” is a history of the men who rose from humble beginnings in the United States to forge and lead the nation of Liberia, the first Republic in Africa. Through oil paintings, photographs and documents, the exhibition examines the first ten presidents of Liberia and their challenge in creating a nation.

“The African American Presidents” opens Saturday, February 25th at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum. Admission to the exhibit, as well as to the permanent collection in Carter museum is \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors (60+), \$6 for military and students with ids. Those 16 and under are always free.

David Smith, Jr., a Georgia State College of Education alumnus and the GSU College of Law’s assistant director for career services, has put together this little-known history of Liberia’s founding fathers and their roots in the United States. Smith is also the author of the book *African American Presidents: The Founding Fathers of Liberia*.

It is fitting that this exhibition is presented at the Carter Library & Museum. In 1978, Jimmy Carter became the first sitting U.S. President to visit sub-Saharan Africa. President Carter has continued to maintain a strong interest in the future of Liberia. He has made numerous trips to the region to meet with interim governments as well as faction leaders in an attempt to resolve conflicts and to assist the country's movement toward peace and democracy.

There are other ties as well between Liberia and Georgia. Liberia’s new President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has two granddaughters who attend North Cobb High School. The two girls, Jenelle and Berylene Sirleaf traveled to Liberia last month to attend their grandmother’s inauguration.

The African American Presidents exhibition will be on display at the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library through May 31st. For more information, call 404-865-7100 or visit www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov.